

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8396

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSULATE MUNICH

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

PLENUM

REF: PRAGUE 1626

1. IN THE SECOND, FINAL DAY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (KSC) CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, THE MAJOR SPEECH, BY CSSR PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDUM MEMBER LUBOMIR STROUGAL, PRIMARILY CONCERNED ECONOMIC MATTERS. STROUGAL OUTLINED THE PARTY NEED FOR DETAILING GOALS OF THE NEXT--SIXTH-- FIVE-YEAR PLAN SO THAT GOVERNMENT AND PARTY COMMITTEES COULD FINALIZE IT BEFORE YEAR'S END. HE ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO COORDINATE THE NEW PLAN WITH CMEA PLANS

TO INTEGRATE SOCIALIST COUNTRY ECONOMIES, AND DESCRIBED PAST AND PROJECTED GROWTH RATES IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE CSSR NATIONAL ECONOMY.

2. IN ADDITION TO SETTING APRIL 12, 1976 AS THE DATE FOR THE FIFTEENTH KSC CONGRESS, THE PLENUM GAVE THE KSC SEAL OF APPROVAL TO TWO SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS. STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN VACLAV HULA, WITH HIS BROAD EXPOSURE TO VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMY, WAS NAMED FULL PRESIDUM MEMBER. JAN BARYL, WHO HAS HELD VARIOUS KSC CENTRAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS DEALING WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS, WAS SELECTED TO FILL HULA'S PREVIOUS SEAT AS KSC PRESIDUM CANADIDATE MEMBER.

3. COMMENT: THE PRESIDUM WAS EXPECTED BY MOST OBSERVERS TO DWELL ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, ESPECIALLY THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN, AND IT DID JUST THAT. WITH THE MANY ILLS PLAGUING THE CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMY, IT SEEMED LOGICAL THAT EXPERTS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS--ALBEIT IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK FASHION --WOULD BE NAMED TO THE PRESIDUM.

4. THE INTRIGUING ASPECT IS WHETHER HULA HAS REPLACED ANYONE ELSE ON THE KSC PRESIDUM, THE LIKELY DISPLACED PERSON, OF COURSE, BEING EX-CSSR PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA. BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION YET THAT HULA TOOK SVOBODA'S CHAIR OR ANYONE ELSE'S FOR THAT MATTER. THE PRESIDUM THUS MAY HAVE BEEN EXPANDED TO TWELVE MEMBERS FROM THE AUGUST ELEVEN WHO EMERGED IN APRIL 1969.
PERRY

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